

I am opposed to the settlements, which are illegal and I agree that the international community has not done enough to halt their expansion. I completely understand that people do not want to buy settlement goods and we do have to question whether it is right to buy goods that are essentially the product of illegal activity.

The Labour Party's official position has generally been to not support formal, national boycotts. There are real doubts as to whether this would encourage Israel to engage with the international community in peace talks and whether it would actually help deliver peace. I understand there could also be technical obstacles to implementing it.

Nevertheless, we need to look at all diplomatic options to achieve a lasting peace, so I do not think we should rule anything out. I certainly think consumers should have the choice as to whether or not they buy settlement goods, and this is why Labour in Government introduced new rules on labelling so it was easier to differentiate between Palestinian produce and settlement goods.

I was particularly disappointed that the Conservative Government chose to ban Councils and public bodies from introducing their own boycotts. This was a worrying restriction of local democracy and betrayed the wrong priorities on Israel and Palestine.